Sugar factories in A.P.

602. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of applications pending from Andhra Pradesh seeking licenses to establish sugar factories;

(b) since when the applications are pending ;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay, ;

(d) what steps Government have taken to clear these applications ; and

(e) at what stage of consideration these proposals are pending ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) The details of applications of Andhra Pradesh pending for grant of Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences for establishment of new sugar factories with their locations are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 15]

(c) to (e) In view of large pendency of unimplemented letters of intent/licences, new proposals have not yet been taken up for consideration.

Stock of foodgrains

603. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of food trains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) with the public agencies at present, inclusive of the stocks held by the State Covernments ;

(b) whether the internal demand for foodgrains is being met from domestic production ;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to import foodgrains ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The estimated stocks of foodgrains (rice-wheat and coarse grains) with the public agencies as on 1st February, 1992 was 14·455 million tonnes.

(b) to (d) By and large, the internal demand for foodgrains is met from domestic production. However, Government have recently decided to import 1 million tonnes of wheat with a view to increase its availability and to contain market prices.

Export of Sugar

604. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to export sugar during the current financial year ;

(b) whether Government have announced new sugar policy enabling the industrialists to establish new sugar factories in the country ; and

(c) what is the total sugar production estimated during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has allocated a quantity of 5·25 lakh tonnes of sugar for commercial export and preferential quota to be completed by 31st March, 1992.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The total estimated sugar production during the current financial year (April, 1991 to March, 1992) is likely to be about 123–124 lakh tonnes.

Central Warchousing Corporation Godowns

605. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Warehousing Corporation's godowns in West Bengal have a low occupancy rate; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue directives to all Government and public sector undertakings to utilise C.W.C. godowns in order to improve their profitability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The average utilisation of the warehouses of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in West Bengal during the first 9 months of 1991-92 was about 80% as compared to 76% all India utilisation.

(b) Government guidelines to the public sector enterprises already exist to the effect that they should make use of the storage facilities available with CWC instead of hiving godowns from private parties of making their own arrangements.